



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

September 24th.

Dr. MORTON, President, in the Chair.

After some preliminary business, the Society proceeded to an election for Vice President, in place of Dr. Griffith, deceased, when Dr. Robert Bridges was elected to that office.

The Society also elected Dr. T. B. Wilson a member of the Conchological Committee, to supply the vacancy in that committee occasioned by the decease of Dr. Griffith.

ELECTION.

Aubrey H. Smith, Esq., of Philadelphia, was elected a *Member* of the Academy.

October 1st.

Dr. MORTON, President, in the Chair.

Dr. Bridges presented a paper entitled "Descriptions of four new species of Crinoidea, from the sub-carboniferous limestone of Iowa and Illinois, collected during the U. S. Geological Survey of Iowa, &c., in the years 1848-9. By David Dale Owen, M. D., and B. F. Shumard, M. D.;" being an addition to the memoir by the same authors read at a late meeting of the Academy. The present paper was referred to the committee having charge of the previous portion, viz., Messrs. Conrad, Wilson and Morton.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Lyceum of Natural History, of New York, dated September 27th, 1850, stating, that a parcel containing publications of several scientific societies of Lyons, France, had been received by M. Grex, of New York, for the Academy.

Dr. Bridges read a letter from Mr. George Ord, accompanying the donation of copper plates XX and XXI, of Vol. 4, 1st series, 8vo. of the Journal of this Institution. On motion, the thanks of the Society were unanimously voted to Mr. Ord for his liberal and valuable gift.

Dr. Leidy, read a description of a new species of Ligula (*L. salamandræ*) which on motion was referred to a committee consisting of Drs. Hallowell, Keller, and Zantzinger.

Dr. Morton, read the following extract from a letter from A. C. Harris, Esq., addressed to Mr. George R. Gliddon, and dated Alexandria, in Egypt, 6th Aug., 1850, in relation to the present existence of the *Ibis religiosa*, in that country.

"Upon a large sand-bank opposite to the Casr-el Sayad, I positively saw an *Ibis* on the 20th of last December. I have seen stuffed specimens brought from Sennaar, and cannot be mistaken in the bird. Its shape is that of the Monuments—the body is grey, the head and part of the neck black, as also the feathers of

the tail. It was with a flock of other birds, and as it slowly left the bank of the river, I remarked that there was a peculiarity in its gait. It pondered over the ground as it walked with eccentric pace, as if it were measuring angles; and it struck me that it was this trait to which Plutarch alludes, and which gave to the *Ibis* the character of Hierogrammaticus or Geometer. If any one else has had the good fortune to see this bird in its natural state, he will perhaps have noticed the singularity which I have described."

In confirmation of Mr. Harris's remark about the scarcity of the real *Ibis religiosa* at the present day in Egypt, Mr. Gliddon observed, that although he had shot over the length and breadth of the land at all times of the year, he had never seen a *living Ibis* during twenty three years residence there. The only modern specimen of the *Ibis* he had ever seen was a dead one, offered for sale by a Moghrebbee hunter at Cairo, about 1835. Mr. Harris has been familiar with Egypt for twenty-seven years, and besides being a profound hierologist, is a keen and observing sportsman. His experience is therefore authoritative; and a sufficient refutation of the accounts of tourists, who talk of seeing *Ibises* on the Nile as if they were common birds there—confounding this with that commonest of all birds, the *buffalo crane*, called by the Arabs *Aboo-gerdân*.

The *black Ibis*, though very rare has been shot by Mr. Gliddon near lake Bourlos in the Delta. Both species are still abundant above Dongola.

Dr. Morton called attention to two plates, which he exhibited, of Layard's folio illustrations of the ruins of Nineveh, whereon are figured the Camel (*C. bactrianus*,) and Dromedary (*C. dromedarius*,) with as much distinctive accuracy as if they had been drawn but yesterday, and yet they date, according to Mr. Layard, 2600 years before our era, or, according to Rawlinson, more than a thousand years later. In either case, they are additional evidences of the distinctness of species, a point which has been disputed, simply because they are said to produce with each other a fertile hybrid offspring.

The following resolution was adopted: *Resolved*, That a copy of the Proceedings, as far as published, be presented to the Agricultural Society of Lyons.

October 8th.

Dr. MORTON, President, in the Chair.

Two letters were read from the Secretary of the Geological Society of London, dated severally, May 8th, and May 23d, 1850, acknowledging the reception by that Society, of Part 4, Vol. 1, new series, of the *Journal*, and of recent Nos. of the *Proceedings*.

Also a letter from Col. J. D. Graham, dated Washington, September 20th, 1850, desiring the renewal of his certificate of membership in the Academy, which had been lost. On motion, the request was granted.